

## Early Literacy Skills

### Story

Tell stories with your child, encourage pretend play, let your child be the storyteller. These activities will foster the **narrative skills** your child will need later for reading, and eventually, for writing.

### Sounds

Sing songs, play games with words, and share rhymes to help your child focus on the smaller sounds in words. These fun activities will foster the **phonological awareness** necessary to prepare for reading, model good diction, and create positive associations as motivation for later learning.

### Books

Find books that speak to your child's interests and share them often. "Read it again" from a child tells you that you are successfully fostering **print motivation**.

### Direction

Help your child discover how to hold a book and turn the pages. Occasionally, run your finger under the print as you read. All these activities foster **print awareness** in young children.

### Words

Say the names of things and describe them. This develops **vocabulary**, which the child needs to speak, and later, to read.

### Letters

Help your child identify the first letter in his/her name. Make a game of finding it in books, on street signs and package labels. Show your child numbers and make a game of counting the number out on fingers, toes, and other things. Both are considered **letter knowledge**, which a child needs as a building block to reading.

## Literacy Development

### What Parents Can Do:

- Relate books to child's experiences.
- Use books in routines such as bedtime.
- Ask "what's that?" and give child time to answer.
- Pause and let child complete sentence.
- Talk about sharing and taking turns.

### What Your Child Can Do at This Age:

- Names familiar pictures.
- Fills in words in familiar stories.
- Reads to dolls or stuffed animals.
- Recites parts of well-known stories.
- Has an attention span that is highly variable.

### Books for This Age:

- Books they can carry.
- Books with photos of children doing familiar things.
- Goodnight books for bedtime.
- Books with a few words on the page.
- Books with simple rhymes or predictable text.
- Touch and Feel books.

### Remember...

- Model the behavior you want your child to learn.
- Discipline is about positive reinforcement. Praise good behavior. Ignore small incidents and accidents. Give your child a second chance. Never use physical punishment and limit use of the word "no."



The process of brain development for reading starts before birth through quiet talking and singing to your baby.

It continues after birth through touch, love, eye contact, one-on-one interaction and repetition.

The ritual of talking together and sharing books starts early.

Learning to read comes later.

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	STORY	BOOKS	SOUNDS	DIRECTION	WORDS	LETTERS
AT HOME	[ ] Read a book, then let your child tell you the story.	[ ] Let your child pick out a favorite book.	[ ] Play hide and seek with a musical toy.	[ ] Let your child hold the book and read or tell the story.	[ ] Play "Where are my nose, ears, eyes, etc.?"	[ ] Let your child sort shapes or letters.
ON THE GO	[ ] Ask your child to tell a story about the day.	[ ] Give your child a book to read or look at while traveling.	[ ] Sing songs with your child.	[ ] Have your child point out recognized places.	[ ] When viewing a passing train, talk about the types of train cars you see. Read <i>Freight Train</i> by Donald Crews.	[ ] Look for "s" in the signs you pass.
AT THE LIBRARY	[ ] Cuddle and read a book together.	[ ] Attend story time or other program.	[ ] Attend a story time or music program.	[ ] Play with a puzzle.	[ ] Talk about how the library works.	[ ] Check out a Family Literacy Kit.
IN THE STORE	[ ] Have your child point out favorite foods as you shop.	[ ] Help your child recognize favorite foods by pointing out letters and pictures on the labels.	[ ] Make rhymes with the names of foods as you shop.	[ ] Talk about left and right, above, below while your child is in a shopping cart.	[ ] Celebrate when your child points out a familiar sign, for example, McDonalds, Cheerios.	[ ] Point out letters or numbers on the signs in the store.
AT BEDTIME	[ ] Cuddle and read your favorite book.	[ ] Read a book and talk about the story.	[ ] Sing a quiet song.	[ ] Prompt your child to point out the objects in the book, for example ask, "Where is the cat?"	[ ] Make a book of your child's favorite things and talk about them.	[ ] Play with foam letters in the bathtub.



Growing Like a Read

# ACTIVITY LOG

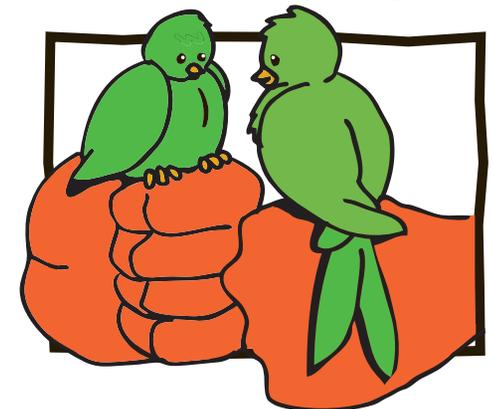
## 19-24 MONTHS

Check off the activities as you do them with your child.

Choosing an activity from each column to complete six across will strengthen pre-reading skills in your child.

Continue until you have filled in the whole chart.

Think up similar activities until your child is developmentally ready for the next activity log.



This Activity Log belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

\*See the Growing Like a Read stand-up book.